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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nicholas L. ABBOTT, et al.  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR DETECTION OF  
MICROSCOPIC PATHOGENS

Appl. No.: 09/784,232

Filing Date: 02/15/2001

Examiner: My-Chau T. Tran

Art Unit: 1639

<b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.110 on the date indicated below and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.	
EV 237870368	October 6, 2003
(Express Mail Label Number)	(Date of Deposit)
Janice K. Zawacki	
(Printed Name)	
<i>Janice K. Zawacki</i>	
(Signature)	

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated June 6, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application. The three-month shortened statutory period for response to the Office Action was set to expire on September 6, 2003, and with the acceptance of the accompanying petition and fee the time period for response will be extended to October 6, 2003. Accordingly, applicants believe that this response is timely filed. No additional fee is believed to be due for this filing. Should any additional fee be due, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-2350. Should no separate petition for an extension of time accompany this communication, applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 to make submission of the papers submitted herewith timely and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. For the purpose of charging said deposit account, duplicates of page 1 and the signature page of this response are submitted herewith.

10/10/2003 AADOF01 00000072 502350 09784232

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**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: